

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION DIRECTIVE**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

☐

DATE

March 18, 2020

MOTOR CARRIER MATTER

☐

DOCKET NO.

2020-106-A

UTILITIES MATTER

☒

ORDER NO.

2020-228

THIS DIRECTIVE SHALL SERVE AS THE COMMISSION'S ORDER ON THIS ISSUE.

SUBJECT:

DOCKET NO. 2020-106-A - Actions in Response to COVID-19 - Staff Presents for Commission Consideration Suspending the Disconnection of All Regulated Utility Customers for Non-Payment and All Non-Payment Related Fees during the Current State of Emergency.

COMMISSION ACTION:

On March 16, 2020, the Office of Regulatory Staff filed a request asking the Commission to grant waivers of certain PSC regulations and seeking expedited action by the Commission. ORS's request follows correspondence from Governor Henry McMaster asking ORS to communicate with all regulated utilities and cooperatives serving the State of South Carolina and effectuate the Governor's request that utilities do not suspend essential services for nonpayment during the current State of emergency.

By its letter dated March 16, 2020, ORS requests waivers of regulations related to Late Payment Charges and Procedures for Termination of Service for all utilities under the Commission's jurisdiction. The specific regulations are:

- Electric regulations 103-339.3 and 103-352
- Natural Gas regulations 103-439-3 and 103-452
- Water regulations 103-732.3 and 103-735.1
- Wastewater regulations 103-532.2 and 103-535, and
- Telecommunications regulations 103-622.2 and 103-633

I move that the Commission grant waivers of the regulations related to Late Payment Charges and Procedures for Termination of Service for all regulated utilities and direct that all regulated utilities suspend disconnection of service during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Additionally, I move that the Commission grant authority for any regulated utility under the Commission's jurisdiction to waive the portion or portions of its tariff or tariffs providing for the collection of reconnection fees during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

I move that all utilities track the financial impacts related to the waivers approved by this action and order as the Commission may seek reporting of financial impacts at a future time.

I move that all regulated utilities are encouraged to provide the Commission and the ORS with other actions the utilities find necessary in addressing customer needs for the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Reporting of any additional actions should be filed in Docket No. 2020-106-A.

I also move that all regulated utilities are encouraged to keep the Commission, ORS, and

customers apprised of material COVID-19 related updates. All updates should be filed in Docket 2020-106-A.

Finally, I want to commend all utilities which have already informed the Commission, ORS, customers, and the media of suspension of disconnection of services for nonpayment during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. This current State of Emergency is unprecedented, and we commend and appreciate all utilities, ORS, and customers in working through the issues presented daily.

PRESIDING: Belser

SESSION: Regular

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER	
BELSER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
ERVIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		voting via videoconference
RANDALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
WHITFIELD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
WILLIAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Absent</u>	Military Leave

(SEAL)

RECORDED BY: J. Schmieding

